

# INFORMATION REPORT

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4. Q. What percentage of Soviet veterinarians are women and has there been an increase or decrease since World War II?
- A. I would estimate that in 1941 approximately 35% of Soviet veterinarians were women. I have no certain knowledge as to a change in this proportion since World War II but I assume that the percentage of women has increased somewhat. An increase would be indicated by the general shortage of veterinarians throughout the USSR and by losses of military veterinarians sustained during World War II. Further, the percentage of women veterinarians was increasing steadily up to 1941 and I see no reason why this trend should not be expected to continue up to 40 or 45%.
5. Q. Are there any special qualifications for women veterinarians in the USSR?
- A. There were no special qualifications in 1941 aside from the ability to pass the entrance examinations and to perform satisfactorily in the college work.
6. Q. Are there many married couples among Soviet veterinarians and what is the government's policy on letting such couples work in the same place?
- A. In 1941 about 10% of Soviet veterinarians were married to other veterinarians. In the great majority of cases, these couples were assigned to work in the same areas so that they could see one another often, if not actually live together.
7. Q. In a previous report [redacted], you said that the USSR is short 700 thousand veterinarians. Is this figure correct? If correct, does it include veterinary personnel of the sub-professional level?
- A. I regret having given you an incorrect figure. I meant to say 70 thousand rather than 700 thousand and I would like at this time to estimate the shortage as being between 70 and 100 thousand veterinarians. This does not include sub-professionals and a like number of additional feldshers is needed.
8. Q. Is there a sub-professional class known as veterinary assistants, who receive four years' training, or are these considered feldshers?
- A. The feldshers are the only sub-professional class of veterinary personnel who receive four years' training. There are two other sub-professional groups whose members receive six months' special training and who are not always full-time veterinary personnel. First, there are the first-aid feldshers who are trained to do nothing more than give first aid to sick and injured animals. Each collective farm has one of these first-aid feldshers, usually a primary school graduate, but occasionally a high school graduate who volunteers for the job. A primary school education is a requirement, however. The six months' course for these assistants is held during the summer at the Federal Veterinary colleges. The second group is made up of the artificial insemination technicians. They also receive a six months' course at a Veterinary College and must be at least primary school graduates. Their only function is to extract semen from bulls, verify the presence of living spermatozoa under a microscope, and inseminate the cows.

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